ピンクとグレー PINK TO GRAY

あらすじ PLOT

MY BEST FRIEND
WHO WAS ALWAYS BY MY SIDE,
BEFORE I KNEW IT, HAD LEFT ME FOR ANOTHER WORLD
FAR AWAY FROM ME.

KAWADA DAIKI NICKNAME: RIVA-CHAN

THE MAIN CHARACTER. ORIGINALLY, HE STARTED WORKING AS AN EXTRA ALONG WITH SHINGO, BUT HE CONTINUES THIS WORK EVEN AFTER GRADUATING FROM UNIVERSITY.

MAIN STORY

MEMORIES OF HIS CHILDHOOD ARE BROUGHT BACK, AS THE MAIN CHARACTER, KAWADA DAIKI (RIVA-CHAN), WATCHED THE DOCUMENTARY SHOW ABOUT HIS FORMER BEST FRIEND (GOCCHI) ON THE SHOW, THEY HAD INTRODUCED THE PICTURE THAT THEY HAD TAKEN TOGETHER DURING HIGH SCHOOL, BUT HE HAD BEEN CUT OUT OF THE PICTURE. WHILE GOCCHI CLIMBS THE RANKS OF STARDOM, RIVA-CHAN CONTINUES TO LOITER AROUND THE BOTTOM OF THE RANKS. HIS FORMER BEST FRIEND LIVES IN A SEPARATE WORLD FROM HIM AND...

SUZUKI SHINGO NICKNAME: GOCCHI

DAIKI'S BEST FRIEND. HE ENTERS SHOW BUSINESS THROUGH MODELING FOR MAGAZINES. CURRENTLY, HE IS WORKING AS THE UP AND COMING STAR "SHIRAKI RENGO."

MY BOND WITH YOU
IS THE ONLY "HOPE" I HAVE
THAT ALLOWS ME TO LIVE IN THIS WORLD.

過去の出来事

THE STORY UP TILL NOW

WHEN RIVA-CHAN WAS 9 YEARS OLD, HE MOVED FROM KANSAI TO AN APARTMENT IN YOKOHAMA. THERE, HE MEETS GOCCHI FOR THE FIRST TIME.

BEING HIS FOURTH TIME MOVING, HE WAS HESITANT ABOUT MAKING FRIENDS AT FIRST, BUT THROUGH AN UNEXPECTED TURN OF EVENTS, HE ENDS UP BECOMING FRIENDS WITH GOCCHI, ISHIKAWA, AND KIMOCCHAN. FURTHERMORE, THROUGH MARKOV'S (KIMOCCHAN'S PET DUCK) ASSAULT INCIDENT, THE BOND BETWEEN THE FOUR IS FURTHER DEEPENED.

ONE DAY, THE CLASS PET MEDAKA SUDDENLY DISAPPEARED. SINCE GOCCHI WAS IN CHARGE OF TAKING CARE OF THE ANIMALS, THE TEACHER SCOLDED HIM AND HE WAS FEELING A BIT DOWN, BUT WHEN THE FOUR OF THEM WERE TOGETHER, IN THE END EVERYONE WAS FULL OF LAUGHTER.

EVEN THOUGH 4 BECAME 2, RIVA-CHAN AND GOCCHI WERE ALWAYS TOGETHER. THEIR FRIENDSHIP DEEPENED EVEN MORE, BUT...

SUMMER QUICKLY PASSED AND WINTER CAME AND KIMOCCHAN MOVED SCHOOLS. NEXT SPRING, ISHIKAWA MOVED AWAY TO AMERICA AS WELL.

NEWS' KATO SHIGEAKI'S
NEWS・加藤シゲアキ
衝撃のデビュー作!! 待望のコミカライズ!!
SHOCKING DEBUT WORK!! THE LONG-AWAITED COMIC VERSION!!

ピンクとグレー

第二章 Dr Pepper
CHAPTER 2 DR. PEPPER

心に刻んだあの歌を
僕は生涯忘れない——

I WILL NEVER FORGET THAT SONG
THAT HAS BEEN ETCHED DEEP INTO MY HEART—

ORIGINAL: KATO SHIGEAKI (NEWS)
原作：加藤シゲアキ（NEWS）
作画：藤崎みお
ARTIST: FUJIMAKI MIO

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発売：角川グループパブリッシング

ON A FRIDAY, 5 DAYS AFTER THE BROADCAST OF THE DOCUMENT-ARY,
IT WAS RAINING.
1
"CLICK"
I'M HOME
MOM, WILL YOU GRAB ME A TOWEL?
YOU'RE DRENCH-ED.
THANKS. I'M GONNA TAKE A SHOWER.
"CLICK"
AND NOW,
WE WILL INTRODUCE TONIGHT'S GUESTS.
"RATTLE"
SUZUKI-KUN IS GONNA BE ON THE SHOW.
YEAH.

もぐ…
IM VERY NERVOUS...
APPEARING ON THIS SHOW FOR THE FIRST TIME IS MITSUI SEI-SAN, OR MORE WELL KNOWN AS SHIRAKI RENGO-SAN.
HIS VERY SIMPLE AND IMMACULATE WORD CHOICE
SO DO YOU FEEL NERVOUS ABOUT SINGING FOR THE FIRST TIME?
AS HE IS MAKING HIS CD DEBUT IN THE NAME OF HIS MOVIE CHARACTER, HOW DO YOU FEEL?
NICE TO MEET YOU ALL.
MAKES HIM SEEM FREE AND CARELESS WITHOUT COMING OFF NEGATIVELY.
SO, HERE IS MITSUI SEI-SAN SINGING,
"SONO SAKI E"

I KNOW
WHO YOU ARE
HIS SONG WAS JUST A REPETITION OF THE PHRASE 'SONO SAKI E.'
3
IT ALL SEEMED STRANGE TO ME...
AT THIS VERY MOMENT, GOCCHI WAS AT THAT TV STATION IN ROPPONGI HILLS, SINGING.
IF HE CAN BE THIS COMFORTABLE, HE SHOULD'VE BEEN THE LEAD VOCAL AT THE SCHOOL CULTURAL FESTIVAL.
HE'S BETTER THAN ME AT BOTH GUITAR AND SINGING.
BUT
THE SONG WAS LIKE TAKING A WELL KNOWN LOVE SONG AND BOILING IT DOWN,
BUT, AT THE SAME TIME IT WAS SO BLAND...

CLAP
CLAP CLAP
I CAN'T REALLY TASTE ANYTHING EITHER.
I'M DONE EATING.
OH? YOU'RE DONE ALREA-DY?
I'LL EAT THE REST TOMORROW MORNING.
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
THAT WAS MITSUI SEI-SAN.
SLAM
GOCCHI HAD AN OLDER SISTER WHO WAS 9 YEARS APART.
WHEN I HAD MOVED TO YOKOHAMA, SHE HAD ALREADY BEEN LIVING ALONE IN TOKYO AND I HAD ONLY MET HER A FEW TIMES.
JUST LIKE GOCCHI, SHE WAS A TALL BEAUTY.

CON-PO...?
WHAT IS THAT?
IT'S REALLY AWESOME!! IT'S A TYPE OF DANCE WHERE YOU EXPRESS EVERYTHING AND ANYTHING WITH YOUR BODY!!
HE LOVES HIS SISTER SO MUCH THAT HE WEARS HER OLD CLOTHES
...HUH?
AS GOCCHI WAS REALLY CLOSE TO HIS SISTER, HE WOULD BE FULL OF EXCITEMENT JUST BEFORE EVERY COMPETITION.
SHE HAD STARTED A CONTEMPO-RARY DANCE UNIT HERSELF AND
NO, THAT'S NOT IT.
THAT'S NOT PRAYING, IT JUST LOOKS LIKE YOU ARE.
MY SISTER CAME UP WITH IT, SO THIS IS PRAYING!
FOR EXAMPLE,
THIS IS THE PRAY-ING POSE.
"STRETCH"
NAM
YOU MEAN THIS FOR PRAYING.
PLEASE LET MY SISTER WIN THE COMPETITION!

FROM AROUND THAT TIME WHEN WE WERE GRADE 5, ON A DAY IN FALL...
GOCCHI SEEMED A BIT DIFFERENT FROM USUAL.
AND HE SEEMED TO BE IRRITATED.
ガシッ
ガシッ
ヒシッ
ヒシッ
6
カチン
カチン
カチン
カチン
...
WATER...
SHALL WE GO GET SOME MORE...?
...YEAH

"WHOOSH"
...YEAH I GUESS SO.
JUST LOOKING AT THE CATERPILLARS MAKES ME FEEL ITCHY, I WONDER WHY THAT IS.
...GO
REMEMBER HOW I SAID IT WAS MY SISTER'S DANCE COMPETITION YESTERDAY.
AT THE VERY END, SHE WAS UP HIGH, DOING THE PRAYING POSE, WHEN SHE LOST HER BALANCE.
.....
MY SISTER, GOT INJURED.

I SEE.. IS SHE OKAY?
IT MUST BE SERIOUS.
DEFINITELY.
SHE'S IN THE HOSPITAL RIGHT NOW.
THEY SAID THAT IT'S DANGEROUS FALLING ON YOUR BACK.
"WHOOSH"
"PLOP PLOP"
.....
LET'S GO!
YOU'RE SO FAST—
ALRIGHT, FOR THE LAST ONE, LET'S HAVE A RACE.
LET'S SEE WHO CAN SQUIRT DOWN THE MOST.
THIS WILL BE THE LAST ROUND SINCE IT'S TIME FOR CRAM SCHOOL.
I WAS USELESS.

AT TIMES LIKE THESE, I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY.
MAKING GOCCHI GO THROUGH THE TROUBLE OF ACTING CHEERFUL FOR ME.
BANG
BANG
9
FUU
AHAHAHA...
IF IT WAS ISHI-KAWA INSTEAD.
COMPARED TO ME, SHE WOULD BE SO MUCH MORE...

WOW, THE WIND IS SO STRONG.
YEAH. MAYBE.
REVENGE OF THE CATER-PILLARS PERHAPS.
GOCCHI! DON'T MOVE!
"SQUIRT"
WHAT?
YUCK.
IT CAME OFF!
.....

"SQUIRM"
"SQUIRM"
I'M SORRY.
GOCCHI
I'M SORRY.
GOCCHI!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING!

SORRY.
SORRY, GOCCHI.
I'M SORRY. I'M REALLY SORRY.
DAMN I CAN'T GET THE NEEDLES OUT
OPEN YOUR HANDS!
IT'S BECAUSE I PRAYED... SOMETHING MUST'VE GONE WRONG THEN.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO APOLOGIZE, YOU DIDN'T DO ANYTHING WRONG.
IT WAS JUST AN ACCIDENT.
NO, IT'S NOT THAT.
GRAB
IT'S MY FAULT. IT'S BECAUSE I PRAYED IN A WRONG WAY WITH MY VERY OWN HANDS.

GOCCHI.
SHE MIGHT DIE.
MY SISTER,

...LET'S GO.
THE ONLY TIMES THAT I HAD EVER SEEN HIM CRY, INCLUDING THE FUTURE,
WAS ONLY TWICE, WHEN ISHIKAWA MOVED AWAY AND THIS TIME.
ON NOVEMBER 19TH OF THIS YEAR,
EVERYONE AROUND WAS BUZZING ABOUT THE LEONIDS METEOR SHOWER.
I'VE NEVER SEEN SHOOTING STARS.
ME NEITHER.
IF THAT'S THE CASE,
LET'S WATCH THE SHOOTING STARS FROM THE ROOF OF THE APARTMENT TOGETHER.
YEAH!
WE'LL DEFINITELY SEE THE SHOOTING STARS!

WHAT? WE CAN'T GO UP ONTO THE ROOFTOP?
THEY WON'T GIVE US PERMISSION TO, SO WATCH IT FROM THE PARKING LOT WITH US, OKAY?
ALRIGHT THEN, WE'LL BE OVER THERE BY THE BENCHES SO MAKE SURE YOU PROPERLY COVER YOURSELF WITH BLANKETS.
HEY
IF ONE OF US FALLS ASLEEP, LET'S WAKE EACH OTHER UP.
OKAY
THE METEOR SHOWERS WOULD BE COMING BETWEEN 2AM AND 4AM.
WAY PAST OUR BEDTIME, WELL AFTER MIDNIGHT.
WITH HOW IT IS RIGHT NOW, I DOUBT THE ALARM CLOCKS WOULD BE USEFUL.
IT IS COVERED IN TAPE TO STOP THE ALARM SOUND.
HAHA
BUT DON'T WORRY, I WON'T FALL ASLEEP.

YEAH
FROM WHERE WE ARE, I FEEL LIKE WE WON'T BE ABLE TO SEE THE SHOOTING STARS SINCE THE VIEW OF THE SKY IS LIMITED.
LOOK
GOCCHI,
I KNOW
RIVA-CHAN...
IF YOU TAKE THAT POSE, IT WON'T COME ANYMORE.
COME.
OH SHOOTING STARS,

IT'S NOT BECAUSE OF THIS THAT YOUR SISTER GOT HURT.
I'LL PROVE IT TO YOU.
TO BE HONEST, I WAS A BIT SCARED.
BUT IF IT WAS TO MAKE GOCCHI FEEL BETTER, THEN FINE.
...
THANKS
OH SHOOTING STARS,
COME.
GOCCHI, IF YOU CLOSE YOUR EYES YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO SEE ANYTHING.
HEHE

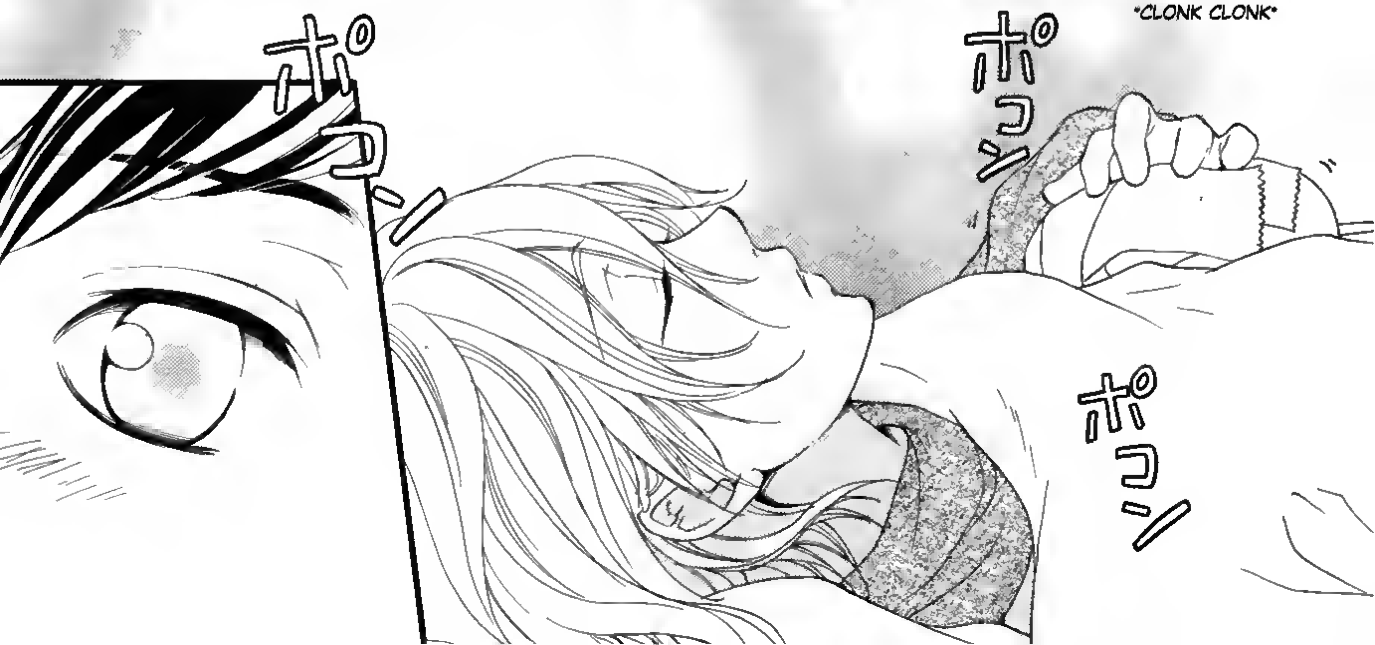
HUFF
YEAH IT IS
SO COLD...
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
GLEAM
FLASH
I THINK IT JUST SHOT ACROSS.
SEE!
FLASH
WHAT, YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING ME!!
WHERE?!
GOCCHI ...
WAS THAT IT?
WHERE?!
WHAT~!?

.....!
OHH
RIVA-CHAN, THAT WAS IT, RIGHT!
YOU SAW IT?
NOW I DIDN'T SEE IT THIS TIME.
YUP
OUR WISH CAME TRUE.
YUP
NOW YOU KNOW IT WASN'T YOUR FAULT THAT YOUR SISTER GOT INJURED.
THANKS
DON'T MAKE ANYMORE WISHES SINCE YOU'RE JUST GONNA BLAME YOURSELF.
I ALREADY DID.
GIVE ME A BREAK.

I HOPE THAT MY SISTER WILL GET BETTER SOON.
GOCCHI'S OLDER SISTER
WAS HOOKED UP TO A VENTILATOR AND HAD MANY TUBES CONNECTED TO HER.
I HOPE SHE GETS BETTER, I REALLY DO.
SHE WAS CONSCIOUS AND ABLE TO SPEAK BUT SHE COULD ONLY MOVE HER FACE AND LEFT HAND.
WO...W.
GOCCHI, IT'S HERE!
IT'S REALLY HERE!

HEY, GOCCHI!
GOCCHI!?
GOCCHI, WAKE UP!
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
ポコン
ポコン
CLONK CLONK

ポコン
ポコン
CLONK CLONK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"CLONK CLONK"
22
THAT SONG THAT MY DAD USED TO LISTEN TO OFTEN.
OH YEAH.
HE WAS LIKE AN OLDER BROTHER. AND LIKE A YOUNGER BROTHER.
THERE'S NOTHING CERTAIN
ALL I KNOW IS THAT I JUST LIKE YOU

IT WASN'T ABOUT FALLING IN LOVE OR JUST LOVING SOMEONE.
ZZZ
ZZZ
IF SEEING THAT ONE SINGLE SHOOTING STAR WAS ENOUGH TO LET HIM FALL ASLEEP,
THAT WAS ENOUGH.
THAT'S HOW I FELT.

FOUR YEARS LATER, GOCCHI'S SISTER PASSED AWAY.
IT HAPPENED DURING JUNE WHEN WE WERE IN 3RD YEAR OF MIDDLE SCHOOL.
THEY SAID SHE CUT THE TUBES ON THE VENTILATOR HERSELF.
ONE MONTH AGO, SHE STARTED DOING PAPER-CUTTING.
EVERY DAY SHE WOULD CUT OUT WORDS OR SILHOUETTES OF ANIMALS.
AND SHE GOT BETTER AND BETTER AT IT.
WE WERE RUNNING OUT OF MONEY FROM PAYING FOR THE TREATMENTS.
AND I THINK THAT WAS ALSO PART OF THE REASON WHY SHE CUT IT.
BUT YESTERDAY, SHE USED THOSE SCISSORS TO...
SHE PLANNED IT ALL ALONG.

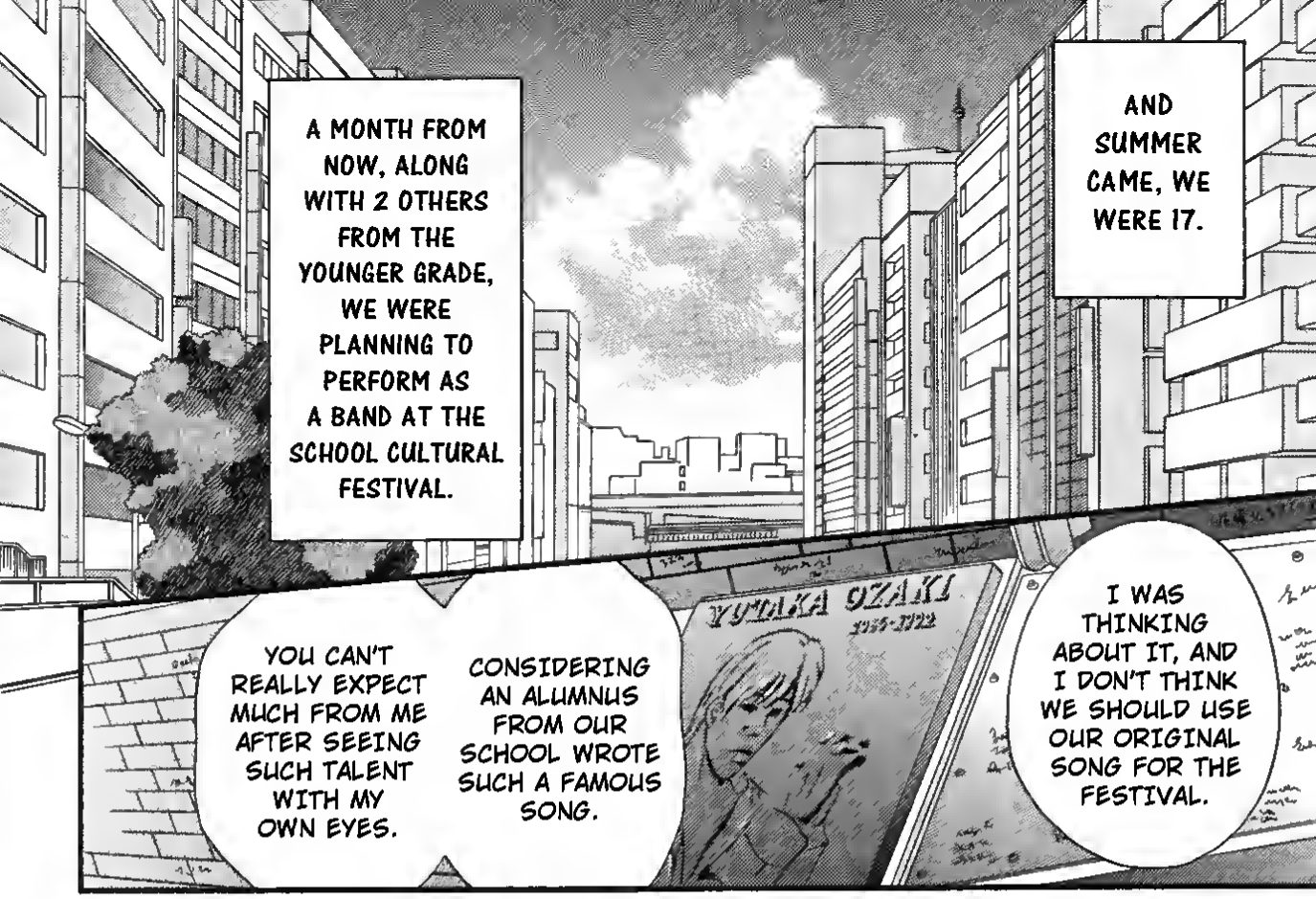
ARE YOU STILL BLAMING YOURSELF?
NO, I'M NOT. THIS MIGHT BE A BETTER ENDING ACTUALLY. I DON'T REALLY KNOW HOW TO EXPLAIN IT, BUT I REALLY DO THINK SO.
OKAY
MEOW
MY OLDER SISTER WAS BEAUTIFUL LIKE THOSE WOMEN IN *UKIYO-E PICTURES.

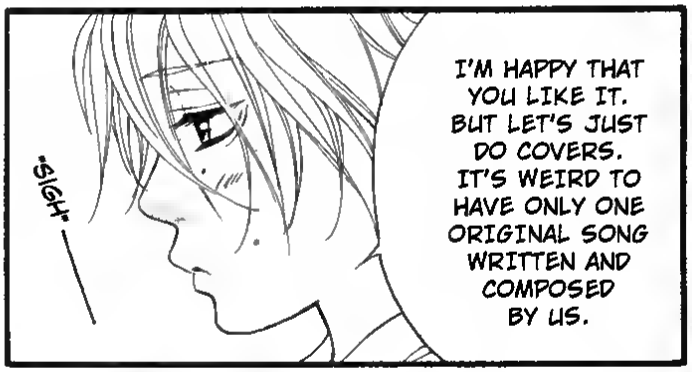
*TL NOTE: UKIYO-E IS A GENRE OF JAPANESE WOODBLOCK PRINTS (OR WOODCUTS) AND PAINTINGS

"IN MY LIFE"
THE BEATLES? I'M NOT VERY GOOD AT IT, SO FORGIVE ME.
GOCCHI WAS KEEPING THE RHYTHM, AND WITH TIME, HIS SINGING VOICE GOT LOUDER.

HIS VOICE FELL INTO CHORUS WITH MINE.
REVERBERATING THROUGH THE AIR AS IT FLOWED OUT.

I FELT LIKE I FIGURED OUT WHY GOCCHI CHOOSE THIS SONG.
LISTENING TO OUR BROKEN ENGLISH,
.....
CLONK
I'M MOVING NEXT MONTH. MY PARENTS JUST HAD ENOUGH OF EVERY-THING.
BUT I'LL STILL BE GOING TO THE SAME HIGH SCHOOL AS YOU.
OKAY
...
THANKS,
MAYBE I'LL START PLAYING GUITAR TOO.
I CAN TEACH YOU A BIT, SO WHY DON'T YOU TRY.
AND I CAN LEND YOU THIS.
THOUGH IT'S MY DAD'S
MY SISTER SAID TO ME, THAT SHE MADE A MISTAKE BUT SHE DOESN'T REGRET IT.
SO IT WAS A GOOD THING THAT SHE DID CONTEMPORARY DANCE.
...YEAH


A MONTH FROM NOW, ALONG WITH 2 OTHERS FROM THE YOUNGER GRADE, WE WERE PLANNING TO PERFORM AS A BAND AT THE SCHOOL CULTURAL FESTIVAL.
AND SUMMER CAME, WE WERE 17.
YUTAKA OZAKI
1935-1922
YOU CAN'T REALLY EXPECT MUCH FROM ME AFTER SEEING SUCH TALENT WITH MY OWN EYES.
CONSIDERING AN ALUMNUS FROM OUR SCHOOL WROTE SUCH A FAMOUS SONG.
I WAS THINKING ABOUT IT, AND I DON'T THINK WE SHOULD USE OUR ORIGINAL SONG FOR THE FESTIVAL.


SIGH
I'M HAPPY THAT YOU LIKE IT. BUT LET'S JUST DO COVERS. IT'S WEIRD TO HAVE ONLY ONE ORIGINAL SONG WRITTEN AND COMPOSED BY US.

IT FEELS LIKE GOCCHI BECAME LIVELIER AFTER STARTING GUITAR.
HAHA

IT'S GOOD, I LIKE IT.
IT'LL BE FINE.
PHALAE-NOPSIS.

PHALAE-NOPSIS REFERS TO ORCHIDS, RIGHT?
BUT WHY DID YOU MAKE A SONG ABOUT ORCHIDS?
I DON'T WANT TO TELL YOU RIGHT NOW.
...WHY?
I CAN'T.
I'LL TELL YOU AFTER THE FESTIVAL IS DONE.
REALLY...
DAMN

FIRST DAY OF THE SCHOO CULTURAL FESTIVAL
QUITE A LOT OF PEOPLE ARE HERE.
GOCCHI, LOOK OVER AT THAT BENCH.
HEHEHE
WHAT?
SILENCE
I JUST GOT HERE.
MOM, DID YOU WAIT FOR LONG?
30
*TL NOTE 'NOH' IS A TYPE OF CLASSICAL JAPANESE DANCE THEATRE
HA—
WOW
IF WE WERE PLAYING ON THE SLOT MACHINES, WE WOULD WIN BIG.
3 SAME FACES
IF ITS THREE 7S, THEN IN THIS CASE IT'S THREE NOH MASKS (NOH MEN).
I FEEL SORRY FOR THE DAD, WHO'S GENETICS DIDN'T SHOW UP AT ALL.
CALLING THEM A *NOH MASK
SO RUDE.
BUT NUMBER-WISE, IT'S MORE LIKE 6 THAN 7.
FUHAHA
さんぼう
MUAHAHA
THEN THAT'S AN OMEN.

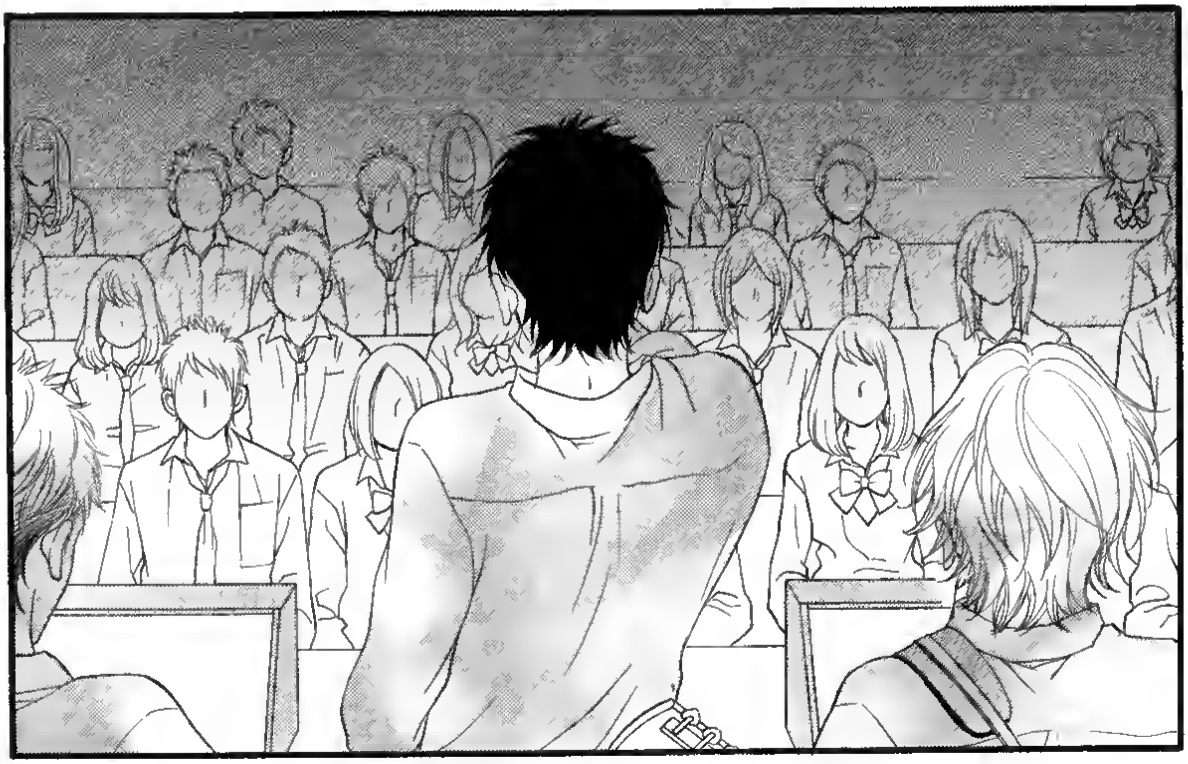
HA—
MY BACK HURTS
RUB, RUB
.....
SO I GUESS ITS TOMOR-ROW.
YEAH
OUR TURN TO PERFORM WAS ON THE SECOND DAY AFTER LUNCH.
AND OF COURSE, IT WAS POURING OUTSIDE.
THE SET LIST WAS SAITO KAZUYOSHI'S "KOFUKU NA CHOSHOKU TAIKUTSU NA YUSHOKU"
WEEZER'S "BEVERLY HILLS"
OASIS' "CHAMPAGNE SUPERNOVA"
AND THEN PHALAENOPSIS.
CLITTER

HI WE'RE DUPONT, THANK YOU.
STRUM——
THUMP
I DUNNO IF IT'S BECAUSE OF THE DAMPNESS BUT THERE'S FEEDBACK.
THUMP
MAN, I'M GETTING NERVOUS.
THE PATH THAT WE'RE WALKING ON NOW
I HOPE IT BECOMES A NOSTALGIC PLACE ONE DAY
I FORGOT MY BREATHING TIMING.

GOCCHI
THE FEELING OF FORGETTING
my FADING MEMORIES
THE PATH THAT WE'RE WALKING ON NOW
IT WILL BECOME A NOSTALGIC PLACE ONE DAY
I CAN'T EVEN TELL IF THE CROWD IS INTO OUR MUSIC OR NOT.
"HUFF"
"HUFF"
"HUFF"
GOCCHI'S LYRICS AND MY MELODY.
NEXT UP IS PHALAENOPSIS.
GOCCHI'S CHORUS SOFTLY REVERBERATED.

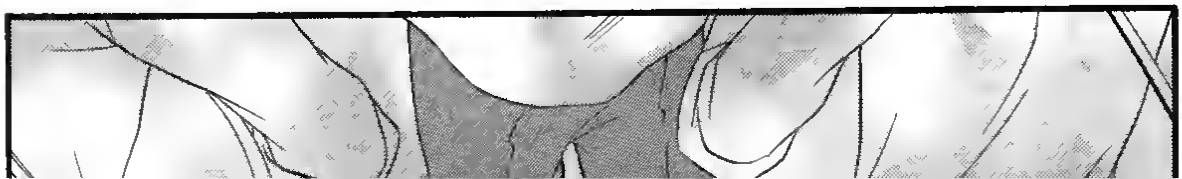
"I'm GONNA NAME IT PHALAENOPSIS"
YOU SAY THAT AS YOU POINT TOWARDS THE BUILDING

"IS IT A MAN? OR A WOMAN?"
I ASK TEASINGLY

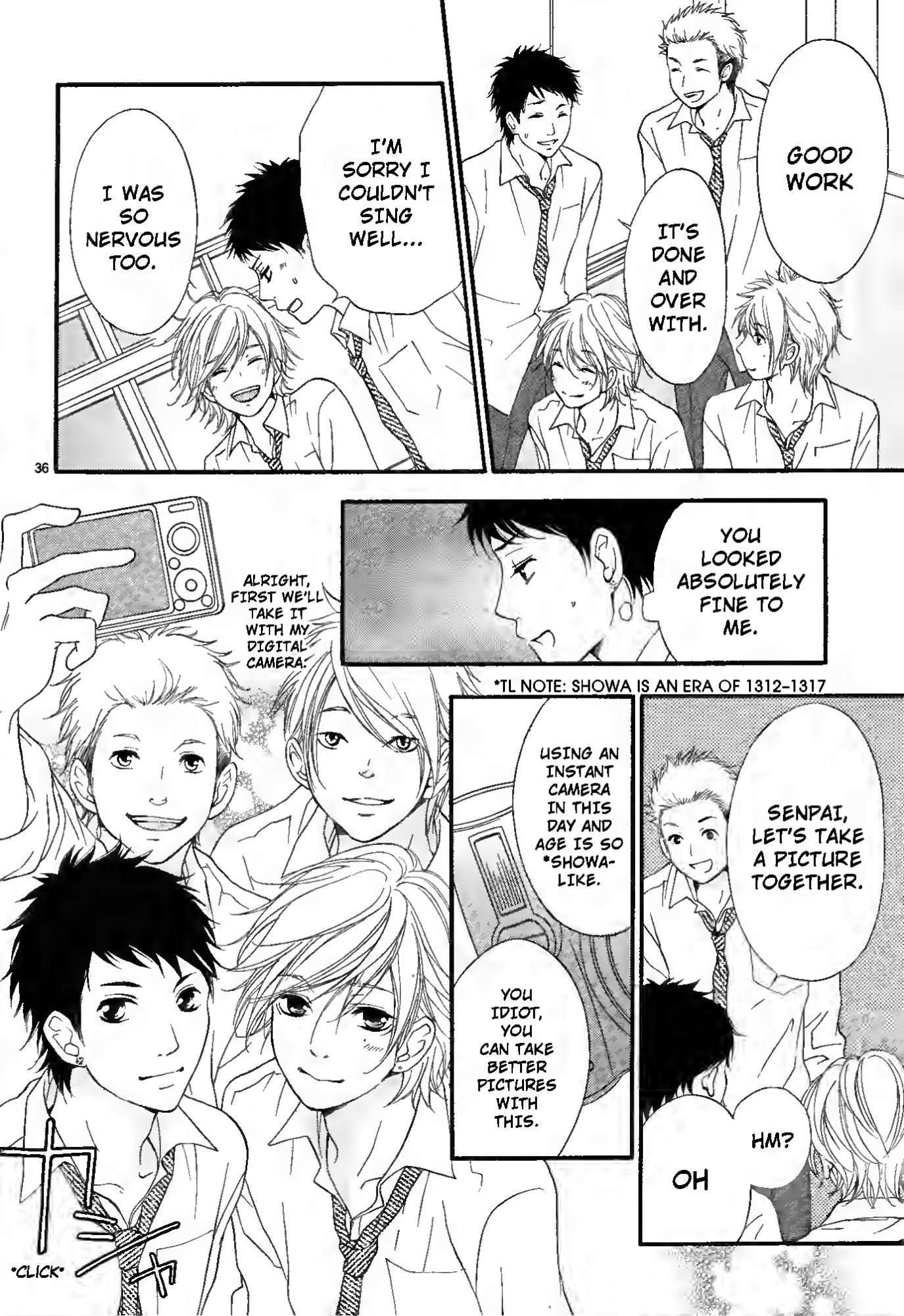


*RAN...RAN...RAN...RAN...RAN...

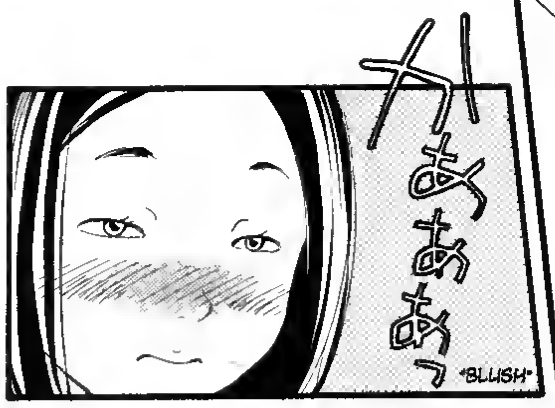
*TL NOTE: 'RAN' STANDS FOR ORCHID



CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
AT THAT VERY MOMENT, I WAS DEFINITELY MOVED.
TO THE POINT THAT I WOULDN'T BE SURPRISED IF MY THROAT BECAME BLOCKED.

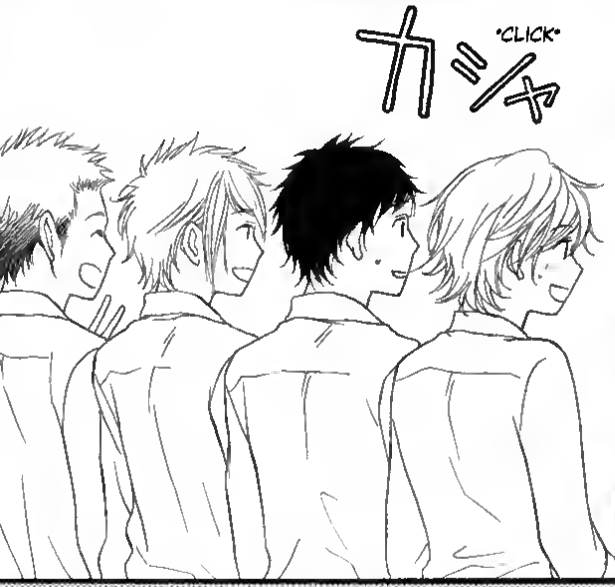

I'M SORRY I COULDN'T SING WELL...
I WAS SO NERVOUS TOO.
GOOD WORK
IT'S DONE AND OVER WITH.
YOU LOOKED ABSOLUTELY FINE TO ME.
ALRIGHT, FIRST WE'LL TAKE IT WITH MY DIGITAL CAMERA.
*TL NOTE: SHOWA IS AN ERA OF 1312-1317
USING AN INSTANT CAMERA IN THIS DAY AND AGE IS SO *SHOWA-LIKE.
YOU IDIOT, YOU CAN TAKE BETTER PICTURES WITH THIS.
SENPAI, LET'S TAKE A PICTURE TOGETHER.
HM?
OH
CLICK

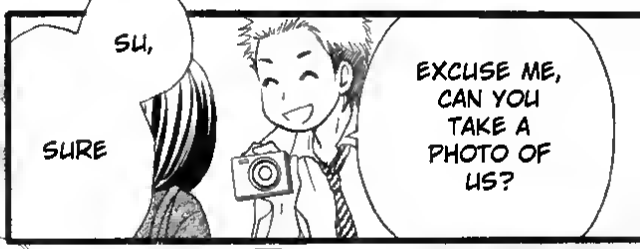
IT'S NOT REALLY A GOOD PHOTO.
WE ALL LOOK SO CHUMMY.
"BEEP"
"BEEP"
OH, SENPAI, WOULD YOU LIKE ME TO TAKE A PICTURE OF BOTH OF YOU WITH THAT SHOWA CAMERA OF YOURS?
OH WELL, LET'S JUST ASK SOMEONE LATER.
YOU'RE GOING TOO FAR WITH THAT JOKE!!
THANKS.
OKAY.
SHO-WA.
"CLICK"
EXCUSE ME—
YOU KNOW, YOU SHOULD RESPECT YOUR SENPAI A BIT MORE.


BLUSH

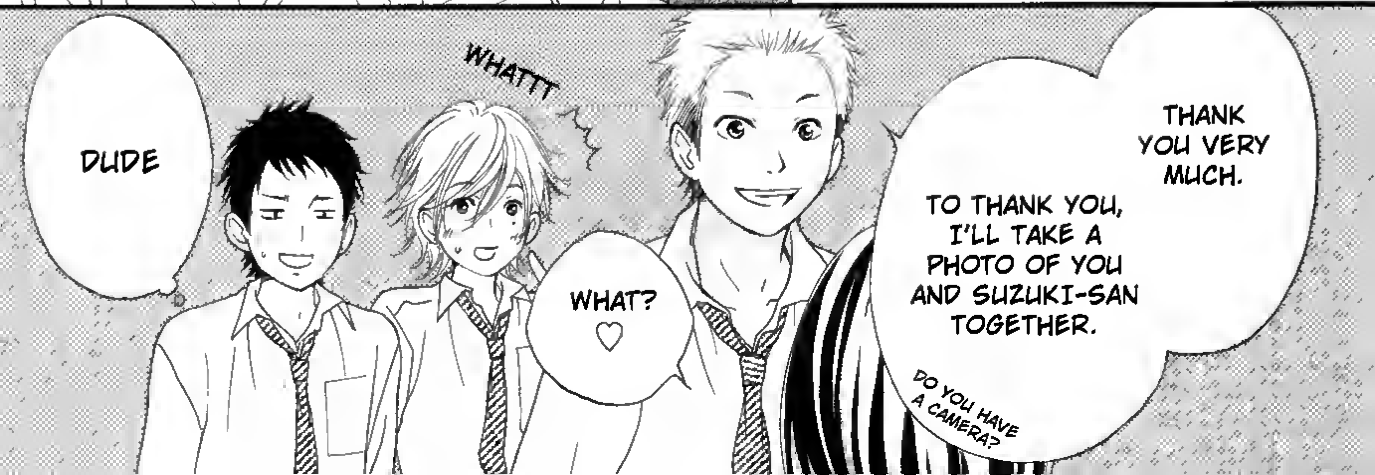
THE NOH MASK GIRL FROM YESTER-DAY!!

SUZUKI SENPAI, YOU LOOKED REALLY GOOD.
PLEASE HOLD ANOTHER LIVE CONCERT.


CLICK


EXCUSE ME, CAN YOU TAKE A PHOTO OF US?
SURE
SU,

OKAY, SAY CHEESE


DUDE
WHATT
WHAT?
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
TO THANK YOU, I'LL TAKE A PHOTO OF YOU AND SUZUKI-SAN TOGETHER.
DO YOU HAVE A CAMERA?

THANK YOU SO MUCH!!
THUD
THUD
THUD
SUZUKI -SAN, GET A LITTLE CLOSER.
SMILE, SMILE.
CLICK
...WE WOULDN'T EXPECT ANY LESS FROM YOU SENPAI.
HURRY UP AND READ THE LETTER.
AND PLEASE READ IT OUT LOUD.
IMAGINE IF IT SAID I LIKE YOU.
AHAHAHA
WHAT CAN I DO
HA——

...OH
BOWS
SHIBUYA MUNICIPAL
MITAKE PARK

WAS MISHIMA -SAN MAD?
SHE WASN'T MAD, BUT YOU KNOW,
I THINK WE'RE GONNA BREAK UP.
FROM THE BEGINNING WHEN SHE CONFESSED TO HIM AND THEY STARTED GOING OUT, HE WAS NEVER REALLY INTO IT.
MISHIMA-SAN WAS GOCCHI'S GIRLFRIEND AND WAS ONE YEAR OLDER THAN HIM.
MISHIMA-SAN IS FROM A FAMILY OF DOCTORS, SO SHE VISITED IN THE MIDST OF STUDYING FOR THE ENTRANCE EXAMS FOR MEDICAL SCHOOLS.
AND SHE SAID DESPITE THAT, SHE JUST SAW SOMETHING SHE DIDN'T WANT TO SEE.
OH
...SHE WOULD BE A HANNYA MASK.
IF WE WERE TALKING ABOUT NOH MASKS.
A FEW MONTH LATER, THEY REALLY DID BREAK UP.

SO THEN, TELL ME.
WHAT?
I'M TALKING ABOUT PHALAENOPSIS. WHY DID YOU CHOOSE AN ORCHID/RAN? YOU SAID YOU'D TELL ME AFTER THE FESTIVAL.
...FINE. BUT DON'T BE DISA-PPOINTED.
"WHISPER WHISPER"
.....
42
IT'S THE NAME OF A RAMEN RESTAURANT!?
HUH!?
NO IT'S NOT DIFFERENT. THE SONG IS ABOUT THE BUILDING THAT WAS RECENTLY TORN DOWN WHERE THE RAMEN RESTAURANT USED TO BE.
I COULDN'T TELL IF THE STAFF WORKING THERE WAS A MAN OR A WOMAN.
.....!!
AND THEN...
...BUT THAT'S JUST FOR THE TITLE RIGHT? AND THE LYRICS ARE ABOUT SOMETHING ELSE.
HEHE

YEAH KNOW...
SEVEN YEARS,
IS THAT ENOUGH TIME TO COMPLETELY CHANGE SOMEONE, TO CHANGE THAT PLAYFUL PERSONALITY OF HIS.
OR, DOES THAT SEEMINGLY COMMON LOVE SONG (SONO SAKI E) THAT COULD BE WRITTEN BY ANYONE, HAVE A HIDDEN METAPHOR THAT I DON'T KNOW ABOUT.
SLAM

RUSTLE
RUSTLE
IF I REMEMBER CORRECTLY, THIS IS WHERE ALL MY IMPORTANT THINGS ARE STORED FROM HIGH SCHOOL.
OPEN
THERE IT IS,
THE MUSIC SCORE FOR PHALAE-NOPSIS.
SCRIB-BLES...
IT MUST BE GOCCHI...
STRUM

"I'm GONNA NAME IT PHALAENOPSIS"

YOU SAY THAT AS YOU POINT
TOWARDS THE BUILDING

"IS IT A MAN? OR A WOMAN?"
I ASK TEASINGLY

YOU GENTLY BREATHE INTO
THE COLD AIR, YOU LOOK UP AND
LAUGH AGAIN 'FINE, THEN, A WOMAN'

RAN...RAN...RAN...RAN...RAN...

27 YEARS AND 39 DAYS LATER
AFTER READING A BOOK, I FIGURE IT OUT
PHALAENOPSIS IS AN ORCHID AND
—"WHAT PART OF THAT BUILDING SEEMS FLOWER-LIKE?"
I WANT TO ASK YOU THIS, BUT I CAN'T ANYMORE

THE BUILDING SAID TO ME, 'AFTER ALL THIS TIME'

RAN...RAN...RAN...RAN...RAN...

THE CRUEL RUMORS BECAME REALITY
"I HEARD YOU WERE BEING TORN DOWN"
THE WILTING CONCRETE
OH, I GUESS YOU WERE LIKE A FLOWER AFTER ALL

"PEOPLE ARE THE SAME"
I CAN HEAR YOUR VOICE
YOU LAUGH AGAIN "IT'S DIFFICULT"

RAN...RAN...RAN...RAN...RAN...

RAN...RAN...RAN...RAN...RAN...SO BEAUTIFUL

THAT'S WHERE HE IS NOW.

NO MATTER HOW UNHAPPY I AM ABOUT HIM, HE'S OUT OF REACH.

PHALAE-NOPSIS.

I REALLY LIKED THAT SONG BACK THEN.

THIS SONG THAT WILL NEVER REACH HIM AGAIN.

END OF CHAPTER 2

加藤シゲアキ

Pink and Gray
Shigeaki Kato

ピンクとグレー

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CHAPTER 2
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